from 1.8.97. In the case of a tour operator, the person responsible for collecting the service tax is the person who holds a tourist permit granted under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 or the rules made thereunder while in the case of out door caterers, the person responsible for collecting service tax is the person undertaking the catering service. The value of taxable service has been defined as the gross amount charged by the tour operator from the client for services in relation to a tour and includes charges for any accommodation, food or any other facilities provided in relation to such tour. In the case of an out door caterer shall be the gross amount charged by such caterer from the client for services in relation to such catering including the charges for food, edible preparations, alcohol and non-alcoholic beverages or crockery and similarly articles or accouterments provided to such client for any charges or on any occasion.

(c) and (d) In addition to the nominal rate of service tax, for computing the tax an abatement of 60% of the value of the taxable services has been provided in the case of a package tour conducted by a tour operator and an abatement of 90% has been provided in cases where the tour operator renders only the services of booking or arranging accommodation. Similarly, in the case of out door caterers an abatement of 50% of the value of taxable services has been provided. Considering the above factors this service tax is not likely to have any adverse impact on the tourism in the country.

Corruption Cases in Ministry of Coal

615. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of corruption, dishonesty and assets disproportionate to the income of civil servants investigated by the Vigilance Department of the Ministry during 1995–96;

(b) the number of officers (Grade-wise) involved in such cases;

(c) the number of complaints received for corruption and dishonesty during 1995–96 and the action taken thereon;

(d) whether the Vigilance initiate any action *suo moto* against the staff suspected to be dishonest and corrupt;

(e) whether the Ministry have made any review of the powers of the vigilance section under their control; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) No case against civil servants in Ministry of Coal has been investigated by the Vigilance Unit of the Ministry of Coal in the year 1995–96.

(c) No such complaint has been received.

(d) The Vigilance Unit can initiate action, *suo moto*, if reliable information is received.

(e) and (f) The Ministry follows the instructions of Department of Personnel and Training and Central Vigilance Commission regarding powers and functions of Vigilance Section. The question of review of the power by the Ministry does not arise.

[Translation]

Import of Edible Oils

616. DR. SAHEBRAO SUKRAM BAGUL :
DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of edible oil imported during each of the last three years and the details thereof;

(b) the foreign exchange spent by the Government on this import during the said period; and

(c) the reasons for importing the edible oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) The quantity of vegetable Oil Fixed (Edible) imported and the C.I.F. value of imports thereof during the last three financial years 1994–95, 1995–96 and 1996–97 are as under:—

Year	Quantity (Thousand tonnes)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1994–95	347	624
1995–96	1062	2262
1996–97	1287	2926

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(c) There has been a continuous gap between the demand for edible oils and its availability from the indigenous sources, for a number of years. Import of edible oils, has therefore, been resorted to with a view to making this commodity of mass consumption easily available to the consumers at reasonable prices.